

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification to correct minor informalities and claims 1-16 to further clarify the claimed subject matter. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to claims 13-16 for minor informalities. By this Amendment, claims 13-16 are amended to correct the identified informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6, 12-14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0120648 to Ball et al. (hereinafter "Ball"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Ball fails to at least disclose, in response to a request for a selected document, obtaining a most recent version of the information object as the selected version of the information object requested by the user, or automatically outputting a rendered version of the information object highlighting the difference, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

In particular, as recognized on page 3 of the Office Action, as disclosed in paragraphs [0049], [0071], and especially [0089]-[0093] of Ball, and as shown in step 29 of Fig. 6 of Ball, the systems and methods of Ball only periodically check the REPOSITORY for updates to documents. Thus, as disclosed in paragraphs [0089]-[0093] of Ball, changes to a document indicated by the systems and methods of Ball do not reflect the most up-to-date version of the document (e.g., in the REPOSITORY) but only the last version saved in the EXTERNAL SERVICE. Thus, Ball cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, in response to a request for a selected document, obtaining a most recent version of the information object as the selected version of the information object requested by the user, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

In contrast, instead of only periodically checking for updates, the claimed invention retrieves the most up-to-date version of the information object directly from the storage where the most up-to-date versions are kept (see, e.g., paragraph [0028], Figs. 1-3). A particular benefit of the claimed invention using the most up-to-date version of the information object is that it prevents users from using out-of-date information in critical situations (see, e.g., paragraphs [0002] and [0003]).

Furthermore, the systems and methods of Ball require that a user manually initiate a comparison between a selected document and a past version (paragraphs [0038]-[0040], [0054]). Accordingly, Ball cannot reasonably be considered to disclose automatically outputting a rendered version of the information object highlighting the difference, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Because, as discussed above, Ball fails to disclose all of the features of claims 1 and 12, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Ball. Further, claims 2, 3, 6, 13, 14, and 16 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 12 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ball; rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ball in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,952,801 to Warmus et al.; and rejects claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ball in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,957,384 to Jeffery et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

These rejections are premised upon the presumption that Ball discloses all of the features of claims 1 and 12, which are also incorporated into claim 7. Because, as discussed above, Ball does not disclose all of the features of claims 1, 7, and 12, the rejections are improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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